

Please amend Claim 20 as follows:

20. (Once Amended) An [ICT assay] immunochromatographic assay process according to Claim 17 for the detection of *S. pneumoniae* or the C-polysaccharide cell wall antigen of said bacteria which comprises:

RECEIVED

FEB 01 2001

(a) contacting a sample of a fluid suspected of containing said bacteria or ~~the~~ antigen with an ICT device comprising a strip of bibulous material, which strip has

(i) a first zone in which has been embedded a conjugate of

(1) a labeling agent that displays a visible color change upon reaction of antibodies with their corresponding antigenic binding partner and

(2) purified antigen-specific antibodies to the C-polysaccharide cell wall antigen of *S. pneumoniae*, said antibodies having been purified by passage over a chromatographic affinity column to which is conjugated a purified C-polysaccharide cell wall antigen of *S. pneumoniae* containing not more than about 10% protein

(ii) a second zone having bound thereto the same purified antigen-specific antibodies in unconjugated form, which zone is equipped with a window for viewing color changes,

(b) allowing said sample to flow laterally along said test strip to said first zone,

(c) allowing said sample, together with said conjugate of antigen-specific antibodies

- A<sup>2</sup>  
cont'd
- and label, to flow laterally along said test strip to said second zone, and
- (d) within approximately 15 minutes from the commencement of step (a) observing through said window whether line of color has appeared in said second zone, thereby indicating the presence in the sample of *S. pneumoniae* or its cell wall C-polysaccharide antigen.

---

Please amend Claim 30 as follows:

---

30. (Once amended) [An ICT] A device for [the detection of *S. pneumoniae* or its C-polysaccharide cell wall antigen] use in conducting the immunochromatographic assay process of Claim 20 which comprises a strip of bibulous material having

- A<sup>3</sup>
- (i) a first zone in which has been embedded a conjugate of (1) a labeling agent that displays a visible color change upon the reaction of antibodies with their corresponding antigenic binding partner and (2) purified antigen-specific antibodies to the C-polysaccharide cell wall antigen of *S. pneumoniae*, said antibodies having been purified by passage over a chromatographic affinity column to which is conjugated a purified C-polysaccharide cell wall antigen of *S. pneumoniae* containing not more than about 10% protein, and
- (ii) a second zone having bound thereto the same purified antigen-specific antibodies in unconjugated form, which zone is equipped with a window for viewing color changes.

31. The method according to Claim 24 for rapidly and accurately diagnosis of *S. pneumoniae*-caused meningitis.

A<sup>4</sup>